The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor covering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and especially the information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1747 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1944 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 34, NO. 40

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

All this talk of a "hard" peace or a "soft" peace for Germany must be alarming to any common-sense American. What is needed is not a "hard" peace or a "soft" peace but an intelligent peace—a peace which will stick this time and not constitute a springboard for another war in the next generation.

One peace plan, reputedly emanating from high sources in Washington, calls for the dismemberment of Germany into three sections—one to be policed by Russia, one by Great Britain and one by us—and the destruction or deportation of Germany's industrial machines.

Whoever thought that up must have been reading Samuel Butler's book about the never-never land where all the people destroyed all machines, even watches, because they feared that otherwise the machine age would destroy them.

But intelligent people who have learned how to control machinery and to control themselves have no fear of being able to control others. And that's just what we have to do with Germany.

Order And Liberty

Thomas Mann, the great German writer now living in this country, called the turn on his compatriots when he wrote in the "Magic Mountain" some twenty years ago that the Germans "love order better than liberty."

If we can extirpate the Nazis and Nazism, if we can restore order to Germany, if we can set up an economy in that country which will provide a decent living for the German people, then the Germans may learn to love and appreciate liberty as the source of order and stability and they may learn to hate war as much as we do.

The only reason the Nazis were able to gain the ascendancy in Germany was because that country fell into complete disorder after the last war, because the German people saw no hope or opportunity in the future and because they were desperate.

We refuse to accept the contention of Ben Hecht, a writer whom we otherwise admire, that all Germans are murderers, that the blood lust runs deep in the German soul and that the only way to make the world safe is to kill off every German, man, woman and child.

That sort of overstatement plays right into the hands of the Nazi propagandists and enables them to rally the German people into last-ditch resistance for fear of complete annihilation if they revolt against Hitler and force a quick surrender.

Naturally the Nazis responsible for plunging the world into war and for the terrible atrocities which have been visited upon helpless minorities must be punished for their crimes. But the great masses of the German people, who already have suffered much, should be placed in the same category with their Nazi oppressors.

An Intelligent Peace

From the beginning, the American Federation of Labor has advocated an intelligent peace. We do not believe that German industry should be destroyed. We believe it should be taken out of war production once and forever and harnessed to the job of rebuilding the vast reaches of Europe which the Nazis have laid waste. That is the constructive solution.

Nor do we believe in inhuman reparations. Proposals for exporting millions of German workers for service in slave labor battalions in Russia or in other European countries smack of the very Nazi methods which all free people have bitterly condemned.

Certainly Germany should be made to pay reparations. But these payments should be made in goods which Germany can produce, not in human life or human misery.

It is a fact that German soldiers taken prisoner in France have threatened to kill themselves when warned that they might be sent to Russia. It is also a fact that hard-boiled soldiers, what reaction can be expected from the civilian population?

History has taught us that two wrongs do not make a right and that force and oppression, regardless of the source, lead only to wars. Let us not forget these lessons in the heat of anger when the peace terms are written.

We insist and demand that our enemies surrender unconditionally. But surely we cannot countenance for a moment the contention that starvation, slaughter and starve the people of enemy nations. They might just as well die fighting.

So let's cut out the silly talk of "hard" and "soft" peace and use the intelligence God gave us to work out a fair and just and constructive solution which will prevent future war and promote world prosperity.

Labor Given "Toughest" War Program To Clinch Victory In Three Months

Washington, D. C.—The toughest production job of the war—to produce more munitions than ever before in history—has been accomplished in the last 8 months of this year, J. A. Krug, new chairman of the War Production Board, announced.

Krug said a total of $5,900,000,000 worth of munitions a month must be produced during the last 3 months of 1944, unless Germany falls before the end of the year.

Krug predicted that the nation would have no difficulty in meeting this year's total goal of 67.5 billions worth of munitions, compared to a lag of 6 percent behind the 1943 goal and a lag of 14 percent behind the 1942 goal.

The overall totals—which do not single out the critical programs for land operations in the services—but the entire program was 64 percent complete at the end of August, with aircraft, ships and guns, making the mark with 66 percent completions, ammunition 59 percent, small and motor vehicles 62 percent, communications and electronics 61 percent, and miscellaneous equipment, 64 percent.

After V-E Day, Krug said, "most of the program which happens difficult will be comparatively easy."

"For example," he said, "Army requirements for heavy artillery ammunition will be reduced 76 percent, heavy truck needs will be down 72 percent from 1944.

"No cutbacks are in prospect for the A-26 Invader or the B-29 Superbomber, these planes will be needed to carry on the war in the Pacific. Nevertheless, there will be a sharp reduction in other types of planes, which will be unnecessary for the A-26 and the Superbomber."

Tremendous Merchant Marine Gains Reported To President By Land

Washington, D. C.—The American Merchant Marine has grown from 1,340 ships totaling 11,850,000 deadweight tons when Pearl Harbor was attacked to a Victory Fleet of more than 3,400 ocean-going vessels of more than 30,000,000 deadweight tons, War Shipping Administrator Emory S. Land stated in the first formal report in the voluminous history of the merchant marine submitted to President Roosevelt.

Noting that "many of the accomplishments of WSA must remain covered by the cloak of national security," Admiral Land declared:

"No report can reflect the full credit due the men and women who have built and who have sailed our fighting merchant ships into the teeth of the enemy. Their story is being written in the successful efforts of their brothers in the services. Every merchant seamen have delivered the goods, on time and enough."

Admiral Land said 46,971,000 tons of dry cargo, 42 percent more than in 1944, were moved last year, in the ratio of 49 percent Army cargo, 10 percent Navy cargo, 29 percent lend-lease and 12 percent was left for all civilian supplies. In spite of military demands, WSA has been able to increase the increased flow of essential imports, Land said.

He said that the importance of repair work necessitated by enemy action and the elements. Last year 11,000 repair jobs and conversions were handled in maritime yards, 2,000 for other nations under lend lease, Land reported.

Concerning the future, Land said: "Rumors and armchair predictions of the impending collapse of our European enemy have caused many to question the continuation of our ship construction and conversion program. People forget that the Merchant Marine's job will not stop with the declaration of peace in Europe." He pointed to the need to supply 4,000,000 American fighting men overseas, many of whom will remain to create a lasting peace, and the task of winning the unconditional surrender of Japan.

"We recognize the fact that a considerable portion of our merchant fleet will be needed to rehabilitate the continent of Europe," he said. "No one do they stop to realize that the distance from United States ports to the coast of China, via the Panama Canal and to Japan is between two and three times that from our Atlantic coast to the European war theater. It will take two or three times the merchant tonnage to 'lift' a unit of armor equal to those now blasting the Germans to bear on the Japanese scene, as hundreds of miles of the mainland of Asia.

"Ship construction and ship operation is unfinished business with number one priority."

Nelson Resigns As WPB Chairman

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt accepted the resignation of Donald M. Nelson as Chairman of the War Production Board and named Charles A. Krug, who has been serving as Acting Chairman, to replace him.

The President said he has slated Mr. Nelson for a new job which he described as "a high post of major importance" in connection with "laying the groundwork for post-war economic cooperation with other nations."

It was reported in informed circles that the President plans to make Mr. Nelson his personal "economic ambassador" with a roving assignment to find markets for American post-war products. Groundwork for this job was broken by Mr. Nelson's recent trips to Russia and China.

Next in line, it is understood, is a trip through Latin America during which Mr. Nelson will explore the possibilities of developing trade relations when peace comes with our good neighbors of the South.

According to these reports, Mr. Nelson will not head up a new agency but will serve as a member of the President's personal staff.

Boilermakers Draft Post-War Plan, Demand Wage Controls Be Dropped

Chicago.—Pledging full support of the war effort until the unconditional surrender of our enemies, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers at a five-day conference here drew up a comprehensive program for immediate action to assure post-war prosperity in America. Highlights of the program follow:

The federal government should take the lead in plans for conversion from war to peace and should taper off war production "slowly and gradually," so that there will be unemployment during the transition period.

Price controls should be maintained to avoid "disastrous inflation."

The "Little Steel" formula should be abandoned and the nation should return to the wage stabilization principles enacted by Congress.

Surplus war goods left after the war should be used largely to help people of the distressed nations abroad to get back on their feet.

Workers who were urged by the government to leave their homes to take war jobs in distant cities should receive reasonable compensation from the government to cover the cost of returning to their homes or to peaceful pursuits elsewhere.

All units of government—Federal, State and city—should cooperate in launching immense public works projects during the transition period.

Jobless workers should receive a minimum of $35 a week unemployment insurance, or 60 percent of their previous earnings, for up to 52 weeks —with the cost to be defrayed jointly by the federal government and the states.

Working hours should be reduced without reduction in weekly earnings, so that present high national income, needed for full employment, can be maintained.

In addition, the program called for a square deal for returning war veterans, particularly those who are disabled; for cooperation between industry and labor on all post-war problems and for maintenance of a powerful U. S. merchant marine after the war.

Finally, the program demanded that workers and consumers receive a fair share of the gains arising out of "inventive genius and technological advances." It declared that "man must not become the slave of the machine, but the machine must continue to be the servant of man."

Roosevelt Non-Committal On Wage Policy Change

Asks Labor Leaders Lots Of Questions But Gives No Answers

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt met with the nation's labor leaders at a White House conference, listened to their demands for prompt thawing of the wage-freeze, asked a lot of questions—but gave no answers.

The conference was "very pleasant," AFL President William later told reporters, but resulted in no commitments. Mr. Green said he considered it unlikely that the President will take any action until he receives and considers the recommendations of the National War Labor Board on wage policy. These recommendations are scheduled for submission by Oct. 15.

There was no indication forthcoming from the President, Mr. Green said, whether he will decide the crucial question before Election Day. However, it was regarded as doubtful that the President would act that soon.

Two conferences were held one after the other at the White House. At the first, a committee of the AFL Executive Council presented to the President the resolution adopted by the Council at its Chicago meeting last August calling for the issuance of an Executive Order relaxing the rigid "Little Steel formula" and permitting realistic wage adjustments to make up for increased living costs. This confab was attended by Mr. Green, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Vice President Daniel J. Tobin.

When the meeting ended, the President called in three CIO leaders who with the AFL representatives make up the Combined Labor War Board, which had previously not conferred with the President for about a year's time.

Wage problems were again canvassed in the presence of the CIO members, as were many other economic and post-war questions. As he left the White House, Mr. Green told newspapermen:

"We talked about the cost of living, reconversion and the degree of unemployment we may face when the war ends. The President asked a lot of questions.

"We also protested to the President against the extended delay of the War Labor Board in making decisions on dispute questions."

CIO President Murray said he was "still sure that the Little Steel formula would be broken." Asked for his views, Mr. Green declared he was "sure the formula should be broken." Mr. Murray said he expressed a personal opinion, not based on any commitment from the President.

Meanwhile, the War Labor Board continued with its hearings on proposed modifications of the wage-freeze with a host of AFL and CIO witnesses submitting evidence supporting the need for remedial action to relieve injustice to the nation's workers and to buttress the nation's post-war purchasing power.

However, the heads of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers testified against any changes. While protesting that they were for high wages, they opposed any action to increase wage rates now.

Can You Afford To Be Hurt?

Can you afford to be hurt?

The cost of on-the-job accidents is measured in time lost from the job—doctor bills—and possibly serious disabilities that cut down future earning power.

Last year 2,285,000 men and women were injured in industrial accidents. Another 18,400 workers were killed.

Accidents cost workers 270,000,000 days of lost time—equivalent to a year's work of 900,000 workers.

They cost the nation $2,000,000,000.

To be on the safe side, OWI urges ha workers to observe these precautions:

1. Check all equipment regularly, in line with instructions.
2. Take no chances.
3. Use the guards with which the machine is provided.
4. Use proper safety clothing and equipment for the job—helmet, respirators, shoes, and the like.
5. Keep workplace, materials, machines and tools orderly and in good repair. Good housekeeping reduces accidents.
6. Wear goggles, if the job requires it.
7. Lift with your legs and arms—not your back.
8. Don't walk on or under loaded cranes or hoists.
9. Don't jump from ladders, platforms, or moving vehicles.
10. Cut out horseplay and practical jokes.
11. Wear the right clothes on the job.

AFL Member, Now Seabee, Decorated

Washington, D. C.—Aurelio Tassone, American Federation of Labor member now serving with the Seabees, has been awarded the Silver Star Medal for his conspicuous gallantry in the Treasury Islands when he used a bulldozer to wipe out 13 Japanese in a pillbox.

Tassone's citation, signed by Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., U. S. N., as Commander, South Pacific Force and South Pacific Area, says:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with a Naval Construction Battalion during and following the initial landing by Allied forces on the Treasury Islands, July 27, 1943. When a Japanese pillbox became very active, causing casualties and impeding unloading operations, Tassone, operator of a bulldozer, was ordered to silence it. Without delay or hesitation he raised the blade and moved forward against the pillbox. At the signal from his officers in charge he dropped the blade and effectively silenced the position and annihilated the 13 enemy entrenched therein. His courageous conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Naval Service."

Tassone has been assigned to speak at plants engaged on Navy production, urging workers to "stay on the job to finish the job."

Veterans Freed of Job Controls By War Manpower Commission Rule

Washington, D. C.—The War Manpower Commission freed veterans of this war of all manpower controls—in effect giving them a first crack at peacetime jobs—when it announced that all rights of war-workers are maintained.

In a parallel action, the War Production Board directed its industry divisions and field offices to give special priorities consideration to veterans desiring to establish or reestablish small businesses.

The WMC Appeals and Training Service also announced a program to enable veterans to learn trades through apprenticeship training in 120 occupations, chiefly metal-working and construction.

Exempting veterans from WMC controls has the effect of making the approximately 1,500,000 former servicemen of this war "free agents" as far as the job opportunities are concerned.

They will not be required to obtain or present statements of availability (releases) to change jobs.

They will be hired by any employer without referral through the United States Employment Service.

They may be hired without regard to established employment ceilings, although they will be counted as employes in determining whether non-veterans may be hired under the ceiling regulation.

"Any veteran of the present war who seeks employment, through the USES will be entitled to a referral, as a matter of right, to any job of his choice, without regard to the essentiality or priority status of such job," WMC ruled.

It was understood the action was taken on the theory veterans already have made their contribution to the war effort and that to require a further contribution would be unfair.

The exemptions do not covet those given dishonorable discharges.

"The War Manpower Commission is concerned as are other interested agencies of government," WMC said, "that the reemployment of veterans of World War II shall be achieved as quickly as possible and in such manner as will assure their best possible readjustment to civilian life. The commission does not wish any of the wartime restrictions to operate against attainment of these objectives."

J. J. Delaney Dies; Was President Of Masters, Mates and Pilots Union

Jersey City—One of the most colorful leaders in the labor movement, President J. J. Delaney of the Masters, Mates and Pilots—has passed away. Following a prolonged illness, he died in St. Francis Hospital in Jersey City, the town in which he was born almost 65 years ago.

He attended parochial schools in Jersey City, but at the age of 13 went to work as a deckhand on New York harbor tugs. He shifted to Ireland railroad ferries and by 1906 had risen to master of a ship. Six years earlier he joined the Masters, Mates and Pilots and he has been active in the organization ever since.

Among offices he held in the union were those of president of Local 1 and 2 in the New York harbor, vice president of the national organization and president since 1954.

Delaney not only led in battles to organize the lonesome men aboard ships, often against bitter opposition of the owners, but actively assisted the struggles of many other unions. He served, too, on the executive boards of the Brooklyn Central Labor Council and the New Jersey State Federation of Labor.

He also held many public positions, including that of labor adviser on shipping matters during the N. E. A. He appeared often before congressional committees to champion legislation designed to benefit maritime and rail workers, as well as labor generally.

He was a member of the Railway Labor Executives' Association and the Seamen's association ethnomitees formed to push rail labor laws, including liberalized retirement legislation.

MACHINISTS TRIUMPH IN TEN ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—Keeping up a high box score of victories, the International Association of Machinists triumphed in ten more National Labor Relations Board elections.

Foremost was a three-way administered by the IAM to the CIO Steel Workers which attempted a "raid" at the Caterpillar Tractor Company, San Leandro, Calif.

Other Machinists' triumphs were scored at the: Shurtle Brothers Machine Company, Middletown, O.; Louis G. Freeman Company, Cincinnati; Dow Chemical Company, Freeport, Tex.; Sharp-On Tool Company, Mount Carmel, Ill.; Hall Motor Freight, Inc., Denver; Artis Engineering Company, Milwaukee, Wis.; Motorway, Inc., Denver; Barco Manufacturing Company, Chicago, and Flori Pipe Company, St. Louis.

KAISER DEMANDS TIME FOR WORKERS TO VOTE

New York City—Henry J. Kaiser, noted shipbuilder, who heads a national committee to "get out the vote," urged Federal procurement agencies —the army, navy and Maritime Commission—to order that all plants engaged in war production give workers time off to register and vote.

Many state laws now require time off on election day for workers who want to go to the polls, but Kaiser insisted that's not sufficient. "The workers must have time for both registration and voting," he said.

ALTMEYER FAVORS WIDER SECURITY

Washington, D. C.—Protection of millions of workers still now safeguarded was urged by Chairman A. J. Altmeyer of the Social Security Board. He particularly stressed the need of bringing into the pension and old insurance systems employes of churches schools, hospitals and other non-profit institutions.

Altmeyer recalled that the board had recommended to Congress laws providing insurance against wage losses due to disability and a comprehensive system of medical and hospital insurance.

Hannah Pledges AFL Aid To Negroes In Wiping Out Discrimination

Columbus, Ohio.—Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, described abolishment of hiring discriminations as the first requirement of a postwar program for Negroes.

He spoke at the annual conference of the National Urban League, a Negro social service organization, as a representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Hannah said the AFL "will continue as vigorous a stand as possible to eliminate discriminations."

Mr. Hannah described delegates from 49 cities that the AFL was "slowly and surely stampjng out prejudice, and eventually we envision the disappearance of prejudice."

"We shall not cease," he continued. "We are convinced that equality of all men will be established beyond question in every section of the country."

He reported that the AFL was fighting for the elimination of the poll tax, full educational advantages for Negro children and the eradication of slum housing.

Mr. Hannah said that the Negro war worker "has distinguished himself in many ways, principally through his responsibility and devotion to the task at hand."

AFL TROUNCES CIO IN SHIPYARD ELECTION

New London, Conn.—AFL Metal Trades Unions, including the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, reported the third straight victory in a row over the CIO in elections at East Coast Shipyards.

The latest triumph was scored at the Electric Boat Company, builders of submarines here. The AFL swamped the CIO by a count of 2,275 to 1,811.

BRITISH TO BUILD MANY NEW HOMES

London, England.—As part of its reconversion program, the British government proposes to build 4,000,000 modern homes in bomb-ravaged England within 12 years after the shooting stops.

In making the announcement, Thomas Johnston, secretary of state for Scotland, said that applications are on hand for the construction of 221,000 temporary houses.

HOPKINS FOR HIKE IN MINIMUM WAGES

Washington; D. C.—Harry L. Hopkins, special advisor to President Roosevelt, outlined a program for full post-war employment calling for legislation to increase minimum wages to 60 cents an hour.

Writing in the current issue of "American Magazine" he said that private enterprise could provide maximum employment—with government spending playing a purely supplemental role—if total consumption is increased and if private investment and expenditure are stimulated.

Enlarged Federal expenditures will be necessary to meet increased debt charges for national defense and to pay veterans benefits, Mr. Hopkins said, but vast public works alone cannot abolish unemployment.

"It must be done by the establishment of new businesses," he wrote. "Industry must be given every incentive to expand, the masses must be given a greater buying power and steel will set into motion like fire, generating new power and new wealth."

He said that the nation's economic future lay more in expanding consumption and raising the standard of living of the people than in any other direction.